

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OECD P 33149 01 OF 02 182013Z

42

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 EA-09 FRB-01 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00

OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

CEQ-01 OFA-01 DODE-00 EPA-04 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 PM-04

USIA-15 SS-15 FEAE-00 INT-05 AGR-10 HEW-06 OIC-02

PA-02 PRS-01 /160 W

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P R 181958Z DEC 75

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 9846

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 33149

PASS: OES FOR HERTER, GLASOE, EPA FOR MILLER, THOMPSON,

CEQ, COMMERCE, USDA, HEW, NSF FOR GRANGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: PROGRAM ON
FLUOROCARBONS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

REF: PROVISIONAL DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING, NOVEMBER 12-14, 1975, (COMMITTEE ROOM
DOCUMENT NO. 20), PARA 43, (MANDATE TO CHEMICALS GROUP)

AT ITS 10TH MEETING, DECEMBER 12-14, 1975 THE CHEMICALS
GROUP RESPONDED TO THE INTERIM MANDATE GIVEN IT BY THE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AND AGREED THE FOLLOWING TEXT ON
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PAGE 02 OECD P 33149 01 OF 02 182013Z

"FLUOROCARBONS IN THE ENVIRONMENT" FOR SUBMISSION TO THE

COMMITTEE IN MARCH 1976:

1. QUOTE: THE CHEMICALS GROUP AT ITS 10TH MEETING EXAMINED THE US/CANADIAN REPORT ON "FLUOROCARBONS : AN ASSESSMENT OF WORLDWIDE PRODUCTION USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES", AND AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE PROPOSED FOR DERESTRICTION AS AN INTERIM REPORT. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT AN AMENDED AND COMPLETED VERSION MAY BE PREPARED AS MORE INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

2. DELEGATES AGREED TO ASSIST IN COMPLETING THE STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES ON THE PRODUCTION, USE AND RELEASE OF FLUOROCARBONS. SUCH INFORMATION WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARIAT BY THE END OF JANUARY, 1976.

3. AS INSTRUCTED BY THE INTERIM MANDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, THE GROUP DISCUSSED A POSSIBLE WORK PROGRAM. IT AGREED THAT AT THIS STAGE, SUCH A PROGRAM SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON FLUOROCARBONS, SINCE THESE SUBSTANCES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR REGULATORY ACTION IN SOME COUNTRIES.

4. HAVING EXAMINED THE DIFFERENT ITEMS LISTED IN THE INTERIM MANDATE, THE GROUP DECIDED TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL TO THE COMMITTEE.

(A) THE ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN RESPECT OF FLUOROCARBONS SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED, AND THEIR ASSISTANCE SOUGHT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM NON-OECD COUNTRIES ON PRODUCTION, USE AND RELEASE OF THESE SUBSTANCES;

(B) AS A MATTER OF HIGH PRIORITY, AN INVENTORY SHOULD BE MADE OF COMPLETED, ONGOING AND PLANNED RESEARCH OF RELEVANCE IN THE AREAS OF

- STRATOSPHERIC CHEMISTRY AND DYNAMICS, AND
- BIOLOGICAL AND NON-BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF CHANGES IN ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION.

SUCH AN INVENTORY SHOULD BE MADE BY THE CHEMICALS GROUP, SUPPLEMENTING THE US EFFORTS, THE RESULTS OF WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 OECD P 33149 01 OF 02 182013Z

THE GROUP WOULD COLLATE INFORMATION

(I) FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES ON NATIONAL RESEARCH RESULTS OR PROJECTS IN THE RELEVANT AREAS, AS WELL AS ON ANY BILATERAL OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES, IN WHICH THEY PARTICIPATE;

(II) FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON RELEVANT SCIENTIFIC WORK, INCLUDING THE RESOURCES ALLOCATED AND

THE EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION ON ONGOING OR PLANNED RESEARCH.

NEGATIVE INFORMATION SHOULD ALSO BE REPORTED.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROGRAM WILL BE TO EVALUATE THE INVENTORY RELATIVE TO THE RESEARCH NEEDS, WHICH HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE IDENTIFIED, AND TO DEVISE A MECHANISM TO COORDINATE RESEARCH EFFORTS TO FULFILL THESE NEEDS. THE CHEMICALS GROUP DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE OECD IS THE APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATION TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THESE ACTIVITIES.

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PAGE 01 OECD P 33149 02 OF 02 182017Z

42

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 OECD PARIS 33149

C) IN RESPECT OF SUBSTITUTES FOR FLUOROCARBONS, AN INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE MADE BY THE OECD OF INSTANCES WHERE SUBSTITUTIONS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE.

D) CONCERNING POLICY OPTIONS, AN INVESTIGATION COULD BE MADE IN TWO STEPS:

(I) IDENTIFICATION OF EXISTING, PLANNED OR POSSIBLE REGULATORY MEASURES;

(II) STUDY OF THE ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF SUCH MEASURES, ON THE ONE HAND IN THE CASE OF UNILATERAL ACTION BY COUNTRIES, AND ON THE OTHER, IN THE CASE OF INTERNATIONALLY CONCERTED ACTION.

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PAGE 02 OECD P 33149 02 OF 02 182017Z

THE GROUP ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SUCH A STUDY, WHICH IN ADDITION IS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE FOR THE OECD. IT IS AGREED THAT WHILST THE SECOND STEP MAY HAVE TO WAIT FURTHER INFORMATION, THE FIRST PHASE COULD BE INITIATED WITHOUT DELAY.

5. THE GROUP ALSO CONSIDERED THE PROBLEMS OF EVALUATING RESEARCH RESULTS AND CARRYING OUT THE NECESSARY RISK ANALYSES. IT WAS, HOWEVER, RECOGNISED THAT THE OECD WOULD NOT BE THE APPROPRIATE BODY TO UNDERTAKE SUCH EVALUATIONS.

6. CONSIDERING THE MATTER OF CONCERTED ACTION, WHEN THE EVALUATIONS ABOVE HAVE BEEN MADE, THE GROUP BELIEVES THAT WORK IN THIS AREA IS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE FOR THE OECD. IT WAS NOTED THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES COULD ALWAYS CALL FOR CONSULTATIONS IF SPECIFIC SITUATIONS REQUIRE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATION.

7. IT IS FINALLY SUGGESTED THAT WHEN THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED ON A WORK PROGRAM, A JOINT MEETING SHOULD BE CONVENED OF THE BUREAUX OF APPROPRIATE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE ITS IMPLEMENTATION. END QUOTE.
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